GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3553
ANSWERED ON:03.09.2012
INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED CROPS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the socio-economic impacts of introduction of Genetically Modified Crops, Bt brinjal to agriculture sector in the country;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) & (b) The Ministry on the basis of recommendation of the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) had commissioned a study " Socio-Economic Analysis of production and Marketing of Brinjal and Ex-ante Assessment of Economic Benefits of Bt Brinjal in India" through the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research (NCAP), New Delhi. The study which was conducted jointly with Institute of Applied and Development Studies, Lucknow concludes:

"From the study it is observed that considerable area was under brinjal crop of surveyed farmers. Given that damage due to fruit and shoot borer is high in this area, the study has shown that by adopting Bt. brinjal, the producers will be able to get large quantity of quality marketable fruit yield and can realize considerable monetary benefits. However for assessing producer's affordability, consumer acceptability and safety issues, there is need for more detailed and focused studies".

(c) Moratorium on Bt brinjal was issued in February 2010. During the post-moratorium phase, no additional studies have been commissioned.